

# Ightham Primary School



## School Uniform Policy

Review Details:

Reviewed	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
Next Review Date	July 2025

### Statement of intent

Ightham Primary School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

### Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Concerns and Complaints Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Statement
- Tendering Policy

### Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

## School Uniform Policy at Ightham Primary School

The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the school board.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Head Teacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head Teacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

### **Cost principles**

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Head Teacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be

## School Uniform Policy at Ightham Primary School

purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

### **Equality principles**

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out below.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Head Teacher and school board, and always in accordance with the school's Concerns and Complaints Policy.

## School Uniform Policy at Ightham Primary School

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

### **Complaints and challenges**

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Concerns and Complaints Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Concerns and Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

### **School uniform supplier**

Our current school uniform supplier is:

- Paul Marchant
- [paulmarchant76@btinternet.com](mailto:paulmarchant76@btinternet.com)

The Governing Body will ensure that a written contract is in place with the supplier for branded items.

The school does not sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations of proposed uniform, as well as fabric samples.

### **Uniform assistance**

The PSA holds a second-hand uniform sale throughout the year - contact [secretary@ighthampsa.com](mailto:secretary@ighthampsa.com) for more details. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

### **School uniform**

#### **School colours**

Our school colours are as follows:

- Burgundy, white and grey.

## School Uniform Policy at Ightham Primary School

### Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	<i>Estimated cost per item from school supplier</i>
<b>Regular school uniform</b>				
Burgundy jumper or cardigan	Required	Optional - School logo on right-hand side from school supplier	Branded jumper and cardigan available from school supplier and second hand from the PSA. Unbranded jumpers and cardigans available from regular retailers.	From £12.00
White shirt or polo shirt	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from PSA and available from regular retailers.	£7.50
Burgundy reversible coat/fleece with school logo	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	Available from school supplier and second hand from PSA	On request
Grey trousers or grey skirt	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from PSA and available from regular retailers.	£7.50
Dark red summer dress	Optional	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from PSA and available from regular retailers.	On request
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
<b>PE kit</b>				
Plain white t-shirt/ polo shirt	Required	Optional - School logo on right-hand side	Available from school supplier.	£7.50
Black / burgundy tracksuit bottoms, leggings or shorts	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from PSA and available from regular retailers.	From £5.50

## School Uniform Policy at Ightham Primary School

Burgundy jumper, cardigan, or hoodie	Required	Optional - School logo on right-hand side from school supplier	Branded sweatshirts, cardigan and hoodies available from school supplier and second hand from the PSA. Unbranded available from regular retailers.	From £12.00
Trainers	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from PSA and available from regular retailers	N/A
<b>Accessories</b>				
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.	£8.00
Grey tights	Optional	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from PSA and available from regular retailers	£2.50
Wellies	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from PSA and available from regular retailers	N/A
<b>Forest School</b>				
PE kit (see above)	Required	As above	As above	As above
Waterproof trousers	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers	N/A
Waterproof coat	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers	N/A

Pupils who are wearing skirts may also wear grey tights if they so choose.  
Trainers are not considered suitable footwear. High heels are not permitted.

Skirts must be knee-length.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

### **Jewellery**

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted.
- A smart and sensible wrist watch.

## School Uniform Policy at Ightham Primary School

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including all PE lessons.

### **School bag**

Due to storage issues in the classrooms, children should not be bringing a bag into school. If a bag is needed for extracurricular activities, it is not permitted to display inappropriate images, slogans or phrases.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

### **Hairstyles**

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Concerns and Complaints Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up at all times in school.

### **Adverse weather**

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing.

### **Labelling**

All pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box in the school office. All lost property is retained for one term and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

### **Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies**

The Year 6 Class Reps have a tradition of purchasing Leavers' Hoodies for the children in Year 6 that will be leaving at the end of that academic year. The School is not involved in this procurement or distribution in any way and it is not an expectation of the School that these hoodies are purchased by parents. The school has agreed that these hoodies may be worn into school, as a goodwill gesture, in Term 6 only, on P.E. and Forest School days. Usual school uniform is expected on all other days. Children may additionally be asked to wear their usual school uniform into school for specific occasions such as photographs and the Leavers' Service.



